E. D. 6. 23

Printed for Iames Boler and are to be sold at the Signe of the Marigold in Paules Church yard.
The 12.th Edition inlarged w.th diuers neve workes as needle-workes purles & others neuer before printed.
1640

THE PRAISE OF THE NEEDLE.

TO all diſperſed ſorts of ARTS and TRADES,
I writ the Needles prayſe (that never fades)
So long as children ſhall be got or borne,
So long as garments ſhall be made, or worne,
So long as Hemp or Flax, or Sheep ſhall beare
Their linnen woollen fleeces yeare by yeare:
So long as Silk-wormes, with exhauſted ſpoile,
Of their owne Entrailes for mans gaine ſhall toyle:
Yea till the world be quite diſſolu'd and paſt;
So long at leaſt, the Needles uſe ſhall laſt:
And though from earth his being did begin,
Yet through the fire he did his honour win:
And vnto thoſe that doe his ſervice lacke,
Hee's true as ſteele and mettle to the backe.
He hath I perſe eye, ſmall ſingle ſight,
Yet like a Pigmey, *Polipheme* in fight:
As a ſtoute Captaine, bravely he leades on,
(Not fearing colours) till the worke be done,
Through thicke and thinne he is moſt ſharpely ſet,
With ſpeed through ſtitch, he will the conqueſt get.
And as a ſouldier Frenchefyde with heat)
Maim'd from the warres is forc'd to make retreat:
So when a Needles point is broke, and gone,
No point Mounſieur, he's maim'd, his worke is done,
And mote the Needles honour to advance,
It is a Taylors Iavelin, or his Launce.
And for my Countries quiet, I ſhould like,
That women-kinde ſhould vſe no other Pike.

The prayse of the Needle,

It will increase their peace, enlarge their store,
To use their tongues lesse, and their Needles more,
The Needles sharpeness, profit yeelds, and pleasure,
But sharpeness of the tongue, bites out of measure.
A Needle (though it be but small and slender)
Yet it is both a maker and a mender:
A graue Reformer of old Rents decayd,
Stops holes and seames, and desperate cuts displayd.
And thus without the Needle we may see,
We should without our Bibs and Biggins bee;
No shirts or Smockes, our nakednesse to hide,
No garments gay, to make us magnifide:
No shadowes, Shapparoones, Caules, Bands, Ruffs, Kuffs,
No Kirchiefes, Quoyfes, Chin-clouts, or Marry-Muffes,
No Crosse-cloaths, Aprons, Hand-kerchiefes, or Falls,
No Table-cloathes, for Parlours or for Halls.
No Sheetes, no Towels, Napkins, Pillow-beares,
Nor any Garment man or woman weares.
Thus is a Needle prov'd an Instrument,
Of profit, pleasure, and of ornament.
Which mighty Queenes haue grac'd in hand to take,
And high borne Ladies such esteeme did make,
That as their Daughters Daughters up did grow,
The Needles Art, they to their children show.

And as 'twas then an exercise of praise,
So what deserves more honour in these dayes,
Then this? which daily doth it selfe expresse,
A mortall enemy to idlenesse.
The use of Sewing is exceeding old,
As in the sacred Text it is enrold:
Our [a] Parents first in Paradise began,
Who hath descended since from man to man:
The mothers taught their Daughters, Sires their Sons,
Thus in a line successively it runs
For generall profit, and for recreation,
From generation unto generation.
With worke like Cherubims Embroidered rare,
The Covers of the [b] Tabernacle were.
And by the Almighti's great command, we see,
That *Aarons* Garments broydered worke should be;
And further, God did bid his Vestments should
Be made most gay, and glorious to behold.
Thus plainly, and most truly is declar'd,
The Needles worke hath still bin in regard
For it doth ART, so like to NATVRE frame,
As if IT were her Sister, or the SAME.

[a] *Gen.* 3. 7. [b] *Embroidery antient, Exo* 26, 1 *Ch*, 28. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Flowers

The Prayse of the Needle.

Flowers, Plants, and Fishes, Beasts, Birds, Flyes, and Bees,
Hils, Dales, Plaines, Pastures, Skies, Seas, Rivers, Trees;
There's nothing neere at hand, or farthest sought,
But with the Needle may be shap'd and wrought.
In clothes of Arras I have often seene,
Mens figure counterfeits so like haue beene,
That it the parties selfe had beene in place,
Yet ART would vye with NATVRE for the grace
Moreover, Posies rare, and Anagrams,
Significue searching sentences from Names,
True History, or various pleasant fiction,
In sundry colours mixt, with Arts commixion,
All in Dimension: Ovals, Squares, and Rounds,
Arts life included within Natures bounds:
So that Art seemeth meerely naturall,
In forming shapes so Geometricall,
And though our Country every where is fild
With Ladies, and with Gentlewomen, skild
In this rare Art, yet here they may discerne
Some things to teach them if they list to learne.
And as this booke some cunning workes doth teach,
(Too hard for meane capacities to reach)
So for weake learners, other workes here be,
As plaine and easie as are A B C.

Thus skilfull, or unskillfull, each may take,
This booke, and of it, each good use may make,
All sorts of workes, almost that can be nam'd,
Here are directions how they may be fram'd:
And for this kingdomes good are hither come,
From the remotest parts of Christendome,
Collected with much paines and industry,
From scorching *Spaine* and freezing *Muscovie*,
From fertill *France*, and pleasant *Italy*,
From *Poland*, *Sweden*, *Denmarke*, *Germany*,
And some of these rare Patternes haue beene set,
Beyond the bounds of faithlesse *Mahomet*:
From spacious *China*, and those Kingdomes East,
And from great *Mexico*, the Indies West.
Thus are these workes, *farre fetcht, and dearely bought*,
And consequently *good for Ladies thought*.
Nor doe I derogate (in any case)
Or doe esteeme of other teachings base,
For *Tent-worke*, *Raisd-worke*, *Laid-worke*, *Frost-worke*, *Net-worke*,
Most curious *Purles*, or rare *Italian Cutworke*,
Fine *Ferne-stitch*, *Finny-stitch*, *New-stitch*, and *Chair-stitch*,
Braue *Bred-stitch*, *Fisher-stitch*, *Irish-stitch*, and *Queen-stitch*,
The *Spanish-stitch*, *Rosemary-stitch*, and *Morrise-stitch*,
The smarting *Whip-stitch*, *Back-stitch*, & the *Crosse-stitch*,

The prayse of the Needle,

All theſe are good, and theſe we muſt allow,
And theſe are every where in practiſe now:
And in this Booke, there are of theſe ſome ſtore,
With many others, neuer ſeene before.
Here Practiſe and Inuention may be free,
And as a *Squirrell* skips from tree to tree,
So maids may (from their Miſtreſſe, or their Mother)
Learne to leaue one worke, and to learne an other,
For here they may make choyce of which is which,
And skip from worke to worke, from ſtitch to ſtitch,
Vntil, in time, delightfull practice ſhall
(With profit) make them perfect in them all.
Thus hoping that theſe workes may haue this guide,
To ſerue for ornament, and not for pride:
To cheriſh vertue, baniſh idleneſſe,
For theſe ends, may this booke haue good ſucceſſe.

Here follow certaine Sonnets in the Honorable memory of Queenes and great Ladies, who haue bin famous for their rare Inuentions and practiſe with the Needle.

1

KIng *Dauid* by an apt ſimilitude,
Doth ſhew with Maieſty, the *Church* her worth;
And to a faire Kings daughter doth allude,
Where to her Spouſe, he bravely brings her forth,
In Garments wrought of *Needle-worke* and Gold,
Reſplendent and moſt glorious to the eye:
Whoſe out-ſide much more glory did infold,
The preſence of th' eternall Majeſty.
Thus may you ſee Records of holy Writ
Set downe (what death or Time can nere deface.)
By theſe compariſons, comparing fit,
The noble worth of Needle-workes high grace.
Then learne faire Damſels, learne your times to ſpend
In this, which ſuch high praiſings doth commend.

2

Katharine *firſt married to* Arthur, *Prince of* Wales, *and afterward to* Henry *the* 8. *King of* England.

I Read that in the ſeventh King *Henries* Raigne,
Faire *Katharine*, Daughter to the *Caſtile* King,
Came into *England* with a pompous traine
Of *Spaniſh* Ladies which ſhee thence did bring.
She to the eight King *Henry*, married was,
And afterwards diuorc'd, where vertuouſly

(Although

The Prayse of the Needle.

(Although a Queene) yet she her dayes did passe.
In working with the *Needle* curiously,
As in the Towre, and places more beside,
Her excellent memorialls may be seene:
Whereby the *Needles* prayse is dignifide
By her faire Ladies, and her selfe, a Queene.
Thus for her paines, here her reward is iust,
Her workes proclaime her prayse, though she be dust.

3

Mary, *Queene of* England, *and wife to* Philip *King of* Spaine.

HEr Daughter *Mary* here the Scepter swaid,
And though shee were a Queene of mighty power,
Her memory will never be decaid,
Which by her workes are likewise in the Tower,
In *Windsor* Castle, and in *Hampton* Court,
In that most pompous roome call'd Paradise:
Who ever pleaseth thither to resort,
May see some workes of hers, of wondrous price.
Her greatnesse held it no dis-reputation,
To take the Needle in her Koyall hand:
Which was a good example to our Nation,
To banish idlenesse from out her Land:
And thus this Queene, in wisedome thought it fit,
The Needles worke pleas'd her, and she grac'd it.

4

Elizabeth *Queene of* England, *and Daughter to King* Henry *the eight.*

WHen this great Queene, whose memory shall not
By any terme of time be over-cast;
For when the world, and all therein shall rot
Yet shall her glorious fame for ever last.
When she a maid, had many troubles past,
From Iayle to Iayle, by *Maries* angry spleene:
And *Woodstocke*, and the *Tower* in Prison fast,
And after all was *Englands* Peercelesse Queene.
Yet how soeuer sorrow came or went,
She made the Needle her companion still,
And in that exercise her time she spent,
As many living yet doe know her skill.
Thus shee was still, a Captive, or else crowned,
A Needle-woman Royall, and renownd.

The

5

The Right Honourable, Vertuous, and learned Lady Mary, *late Counteſſe of* Pembrooke.

A Patterne, and a Patroneſſe ſhe was,
Of vertuous induſtry and ſtudious learning:
And ſhee her earthly Pilgrimage did paſſe,
In Acts which were high honour moſt concerning.
Braue *Wilton* houſe in *Wiltſhire* well can ſhow,
Her admirable workes in Arras fram'd:
Where men, and beaſts ſeeme like, trees ſeeme to grow,
And Art (ſurpaſſ'd by Nature) ſeemes aſham'd,
Thus this renowned Honourable Dame,
Her happy time moſt happily did ſpend;
Whoſe worth recorded in the mouth of fame,
(Vntill the world ſhall end) ſhall never end
She wrought ſo well in Needle-worke, that ſhee,
Nor yet her workes, ſhall ere forgoten be.

6

The Right Honourable and religious Lady Elizabeth Dormer, *Wife to the late Right Honourable, the Lord* Robert Dormer *deceaſed.*

THis Noble Lady imitates time paſt,
Directs time preſent, teacheth time to come,
And longer then her life, her laud ſhall laſt,
Workes ſhewes her worth, though all the world were dumb.
And though her Reverend ſelfe, with many dayes,
Of honourable age is loaden deepe,
Yet with her Needle (to her worthy prayſe)
Shee's working often ere the Sunne doth peepe.
And, many times, when *Phœbus* in the Weſt
Declined is, and *Luna* ſhewes her head:
This antient honour'd Lady reſts from Reſt,
And workes when idle ſloath goes ſoone to bed,
Thus ſhee the Needle makes her recreation,
Whoſe well-ſpent paines are others imitation.

To

The Prayse of the Needle.

To all degrees of both sexes, that love or live by the laudable imployment of the Needle.

IF any aske to whom these lines are writ,
I answer, unto them that doe inquire:
For since the worlds Creation none was yet,
Whose wants did not the *Needles* helpe desire.
And therefore not to him, or her, or thee,
Or them, or they, I doe not write at all:
Nor to particulars of he or shee,
But generally, to all in generall.

Then let not Pride looke scurvily a-scewe,
Without the *Needle*, Pride would naked goe:
Nor yet let scorne, cry fish, and tush, and mew,
Scorne is forgetfull much in doing so,
Nor yet let any one presume to prate,
And call these lines poore trifles, by me pend:
Let not opinion be prejudicate,
But mend it ere they dare to discommend,
So fare thou well, my well-deserving booke,
(I meane, the works deserts, and not my lines)
I much presume that all that one it looke,
Will like and laud the workemans good designes,
Fooles play the Fooles, but tis through want of wit,
Whilst I to wisedomes censure doe submit.

FINIS.

Iohn Tayler.

LXVII

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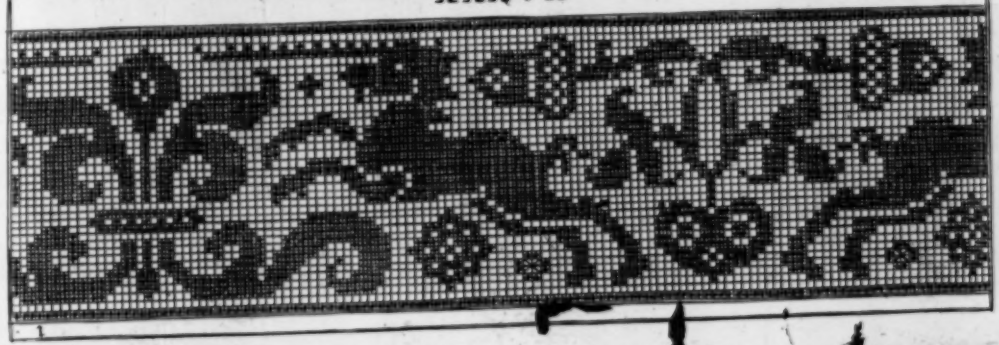

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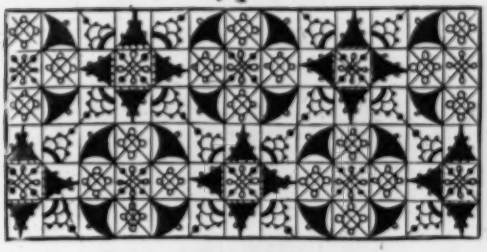

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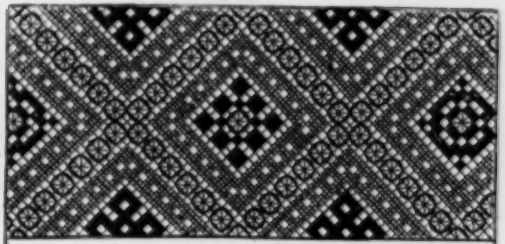

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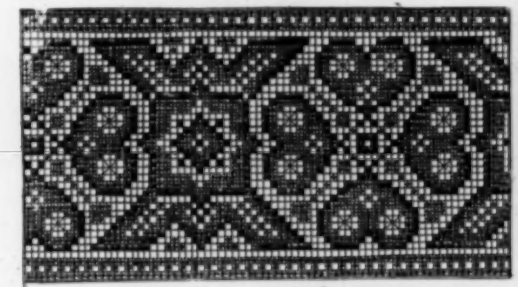

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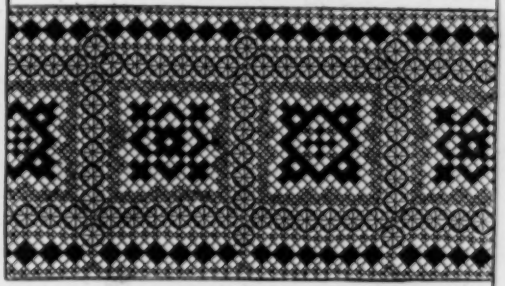

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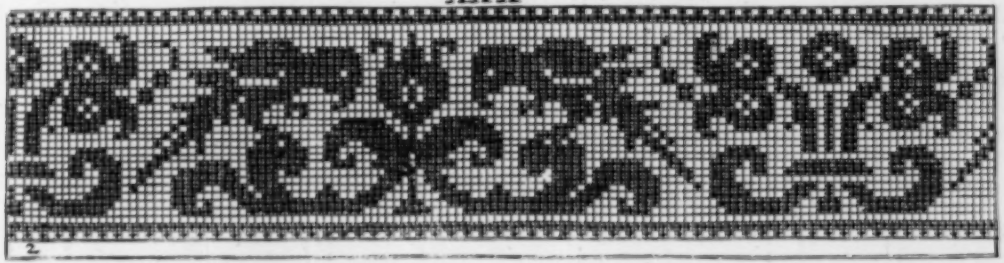

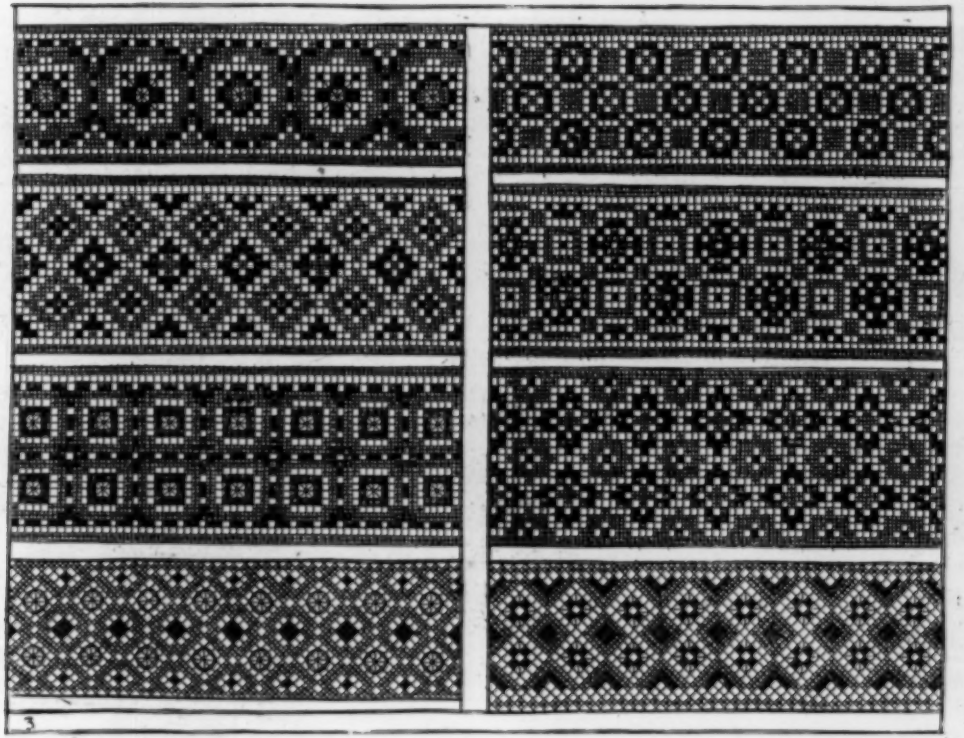

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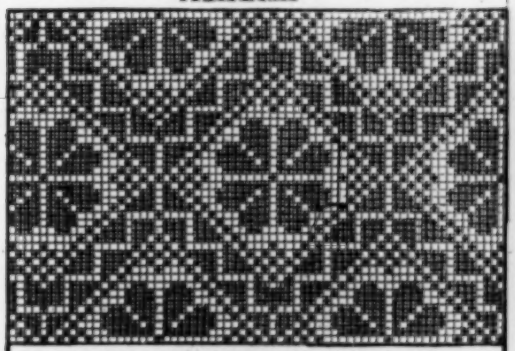

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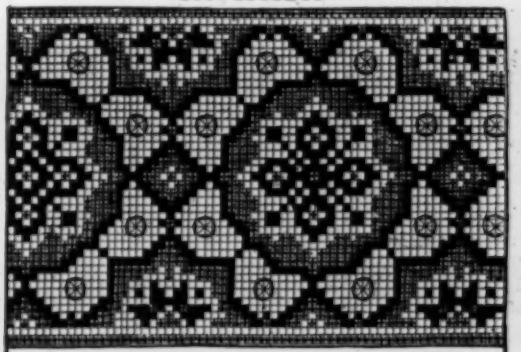

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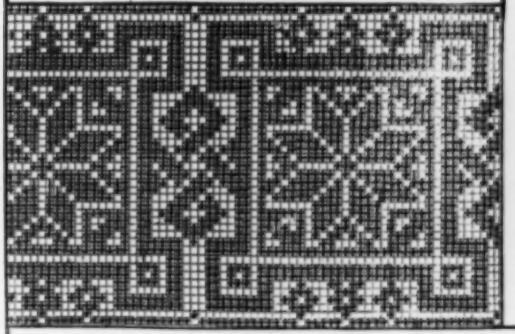

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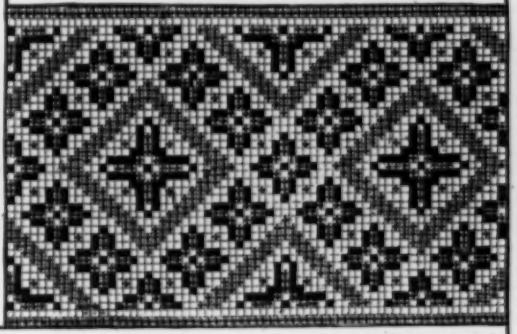

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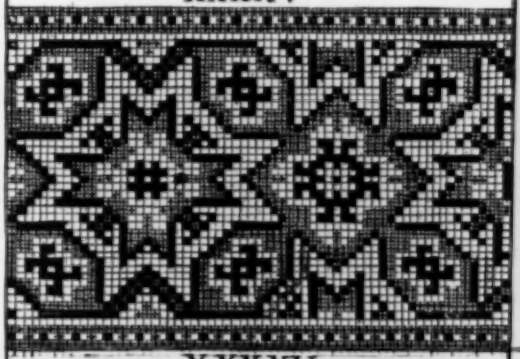

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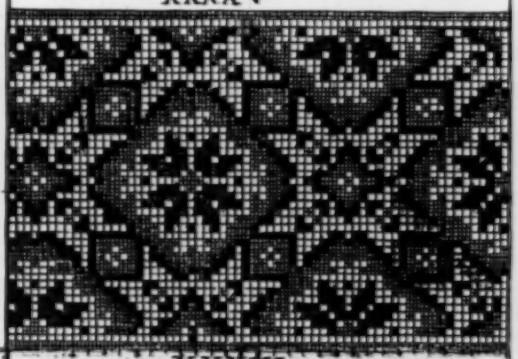

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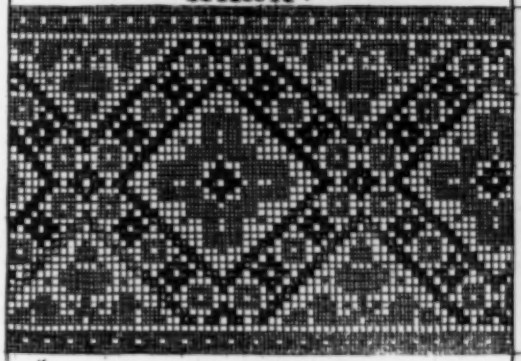

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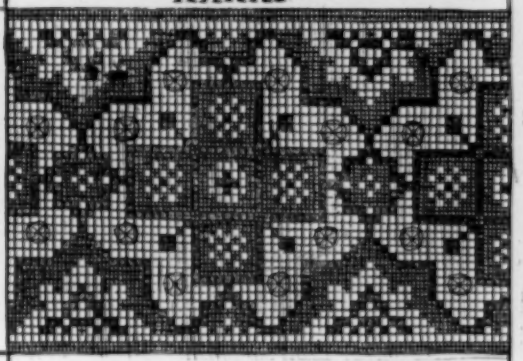

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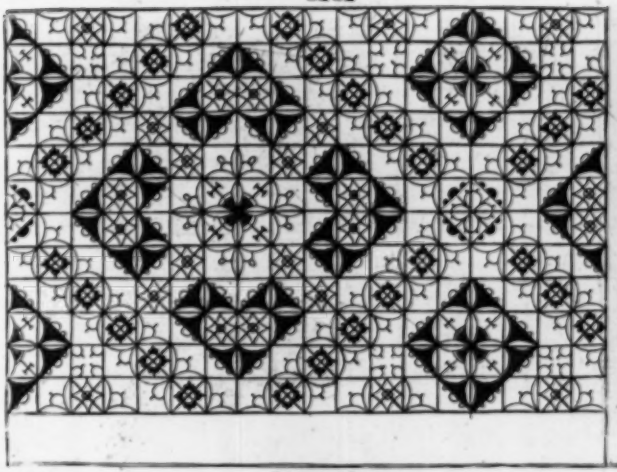

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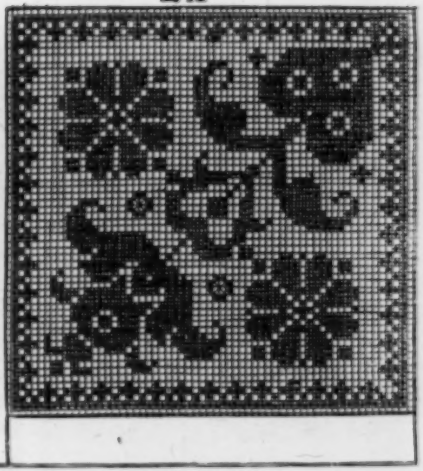

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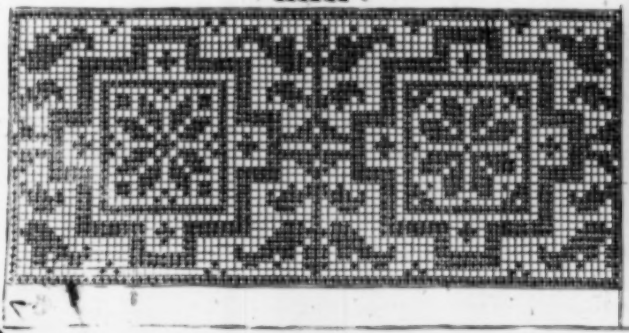

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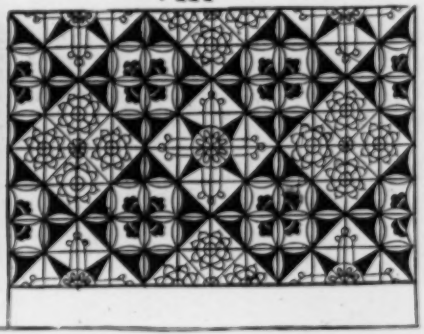

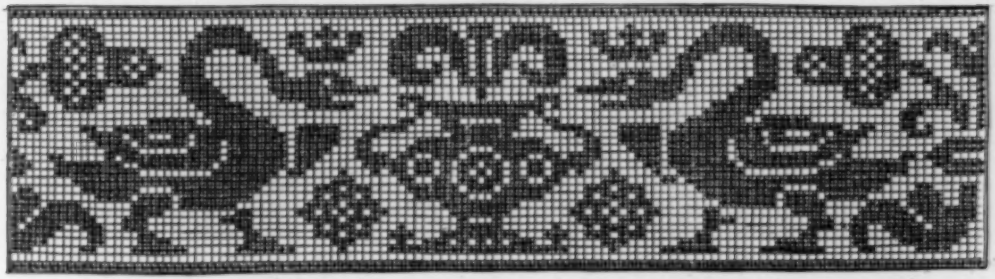

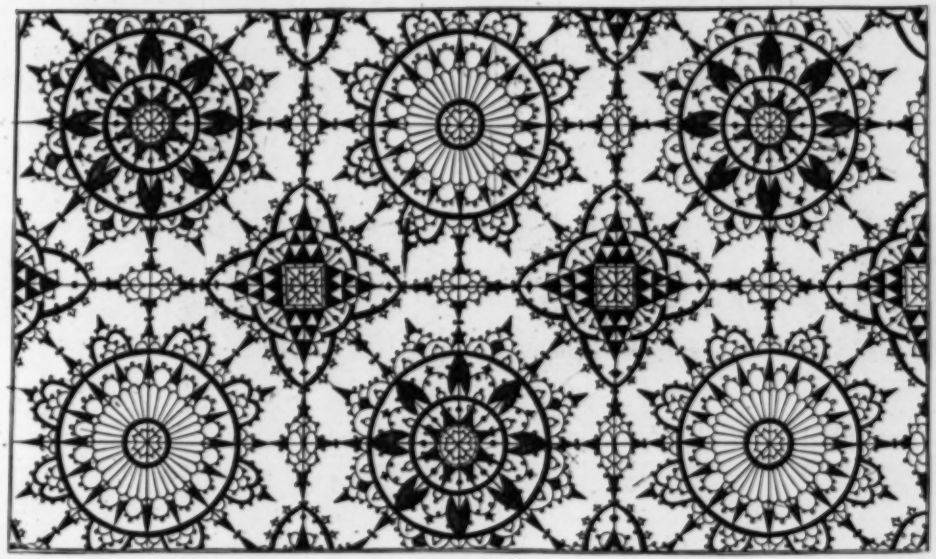

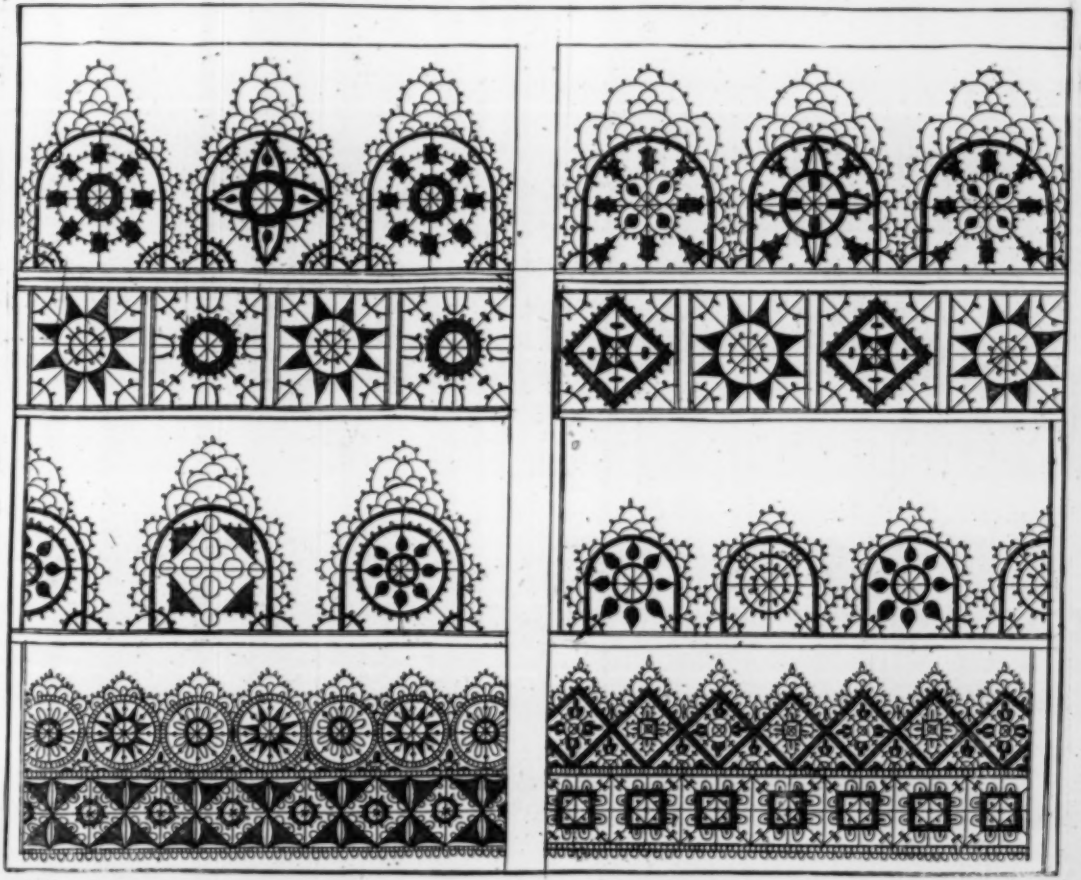

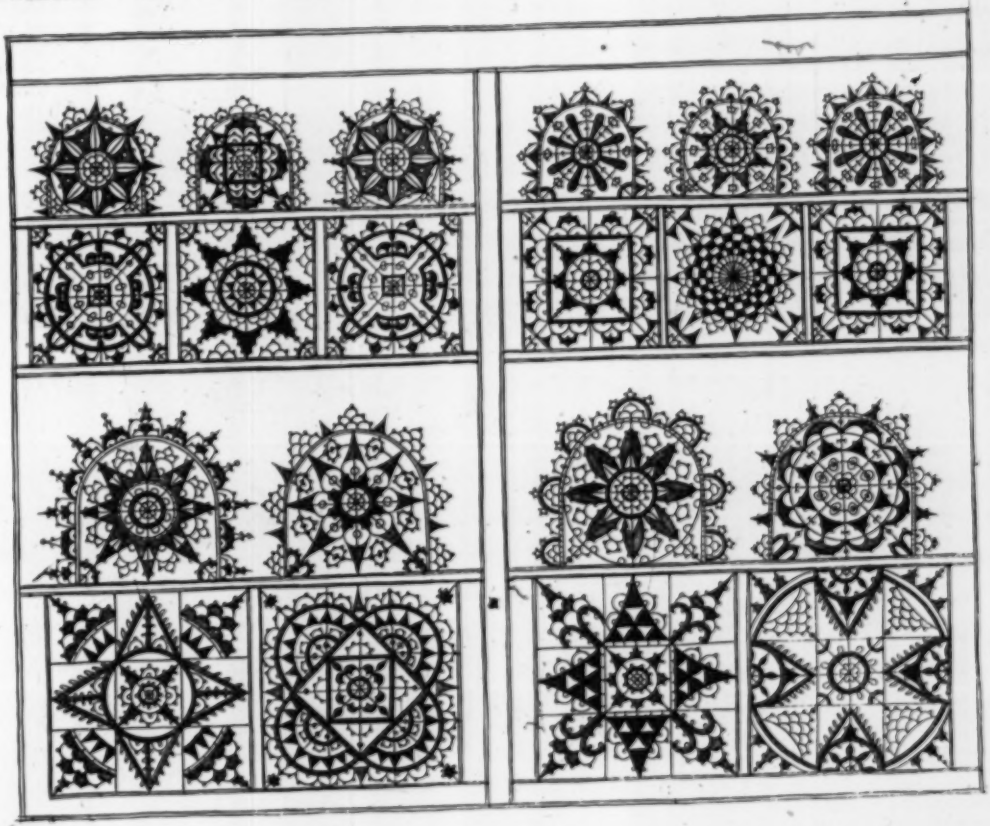

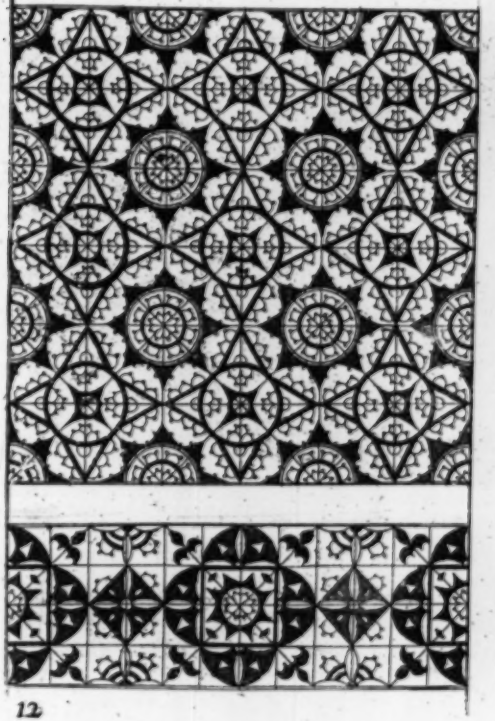

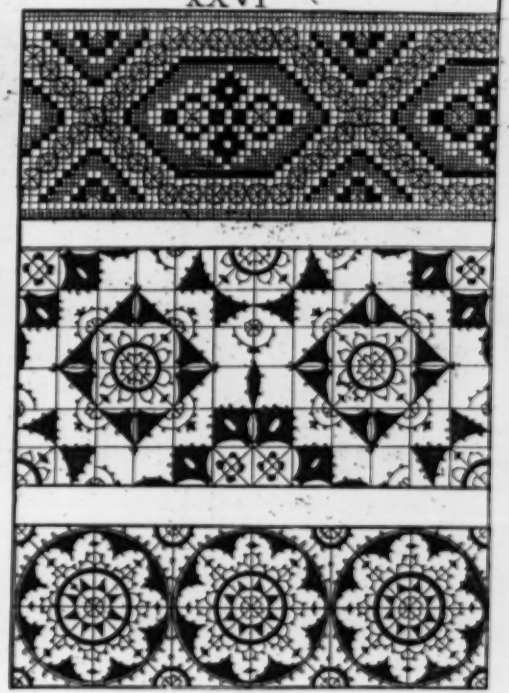

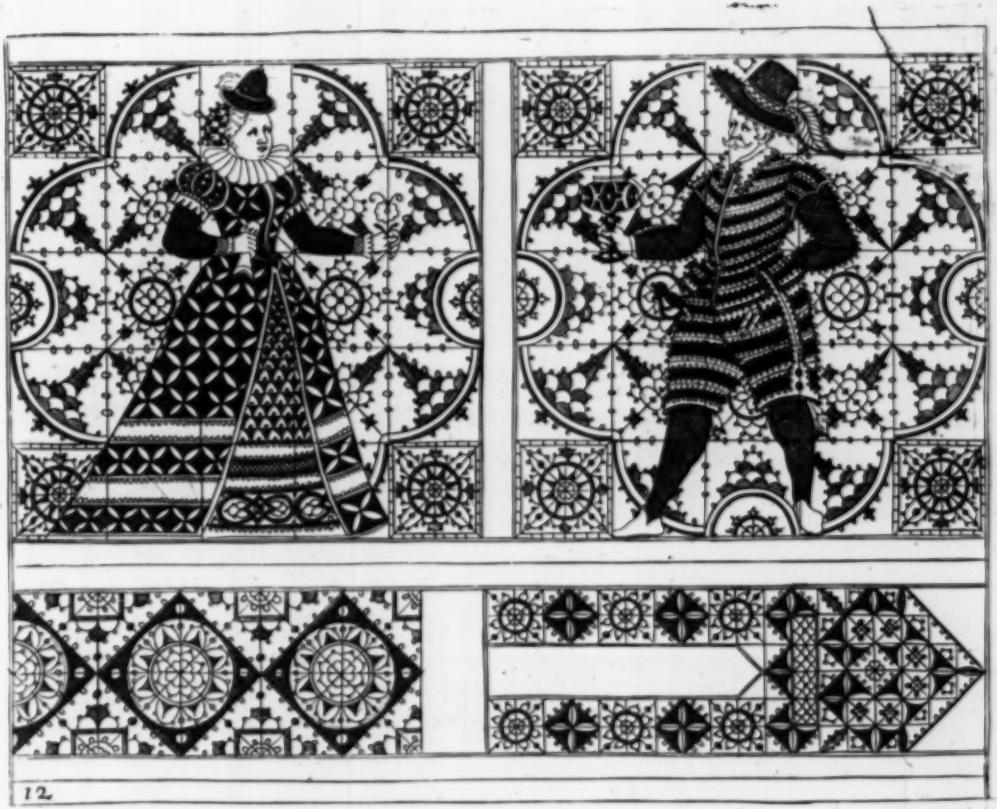

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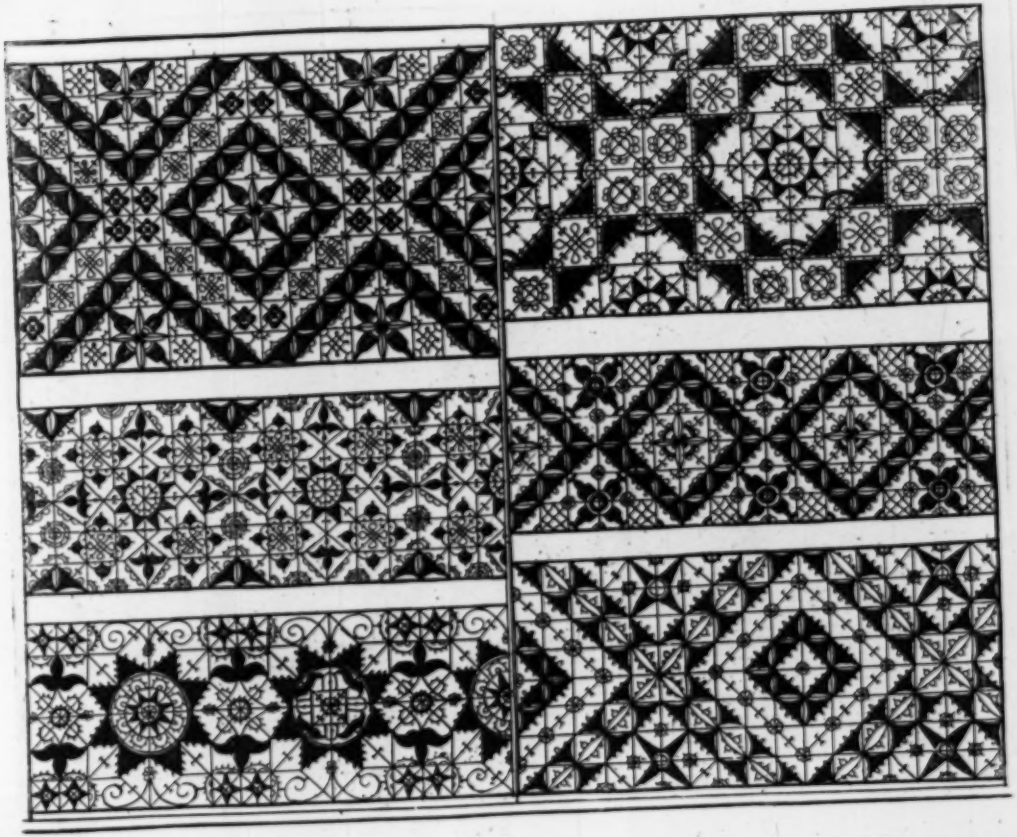

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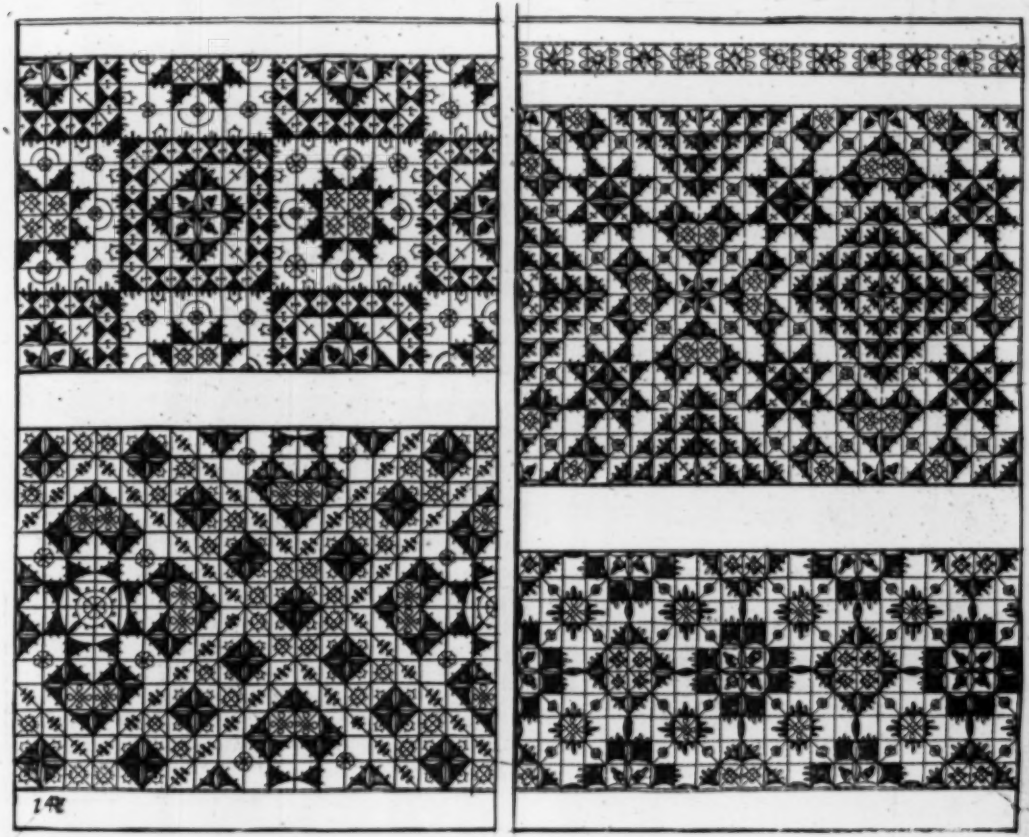
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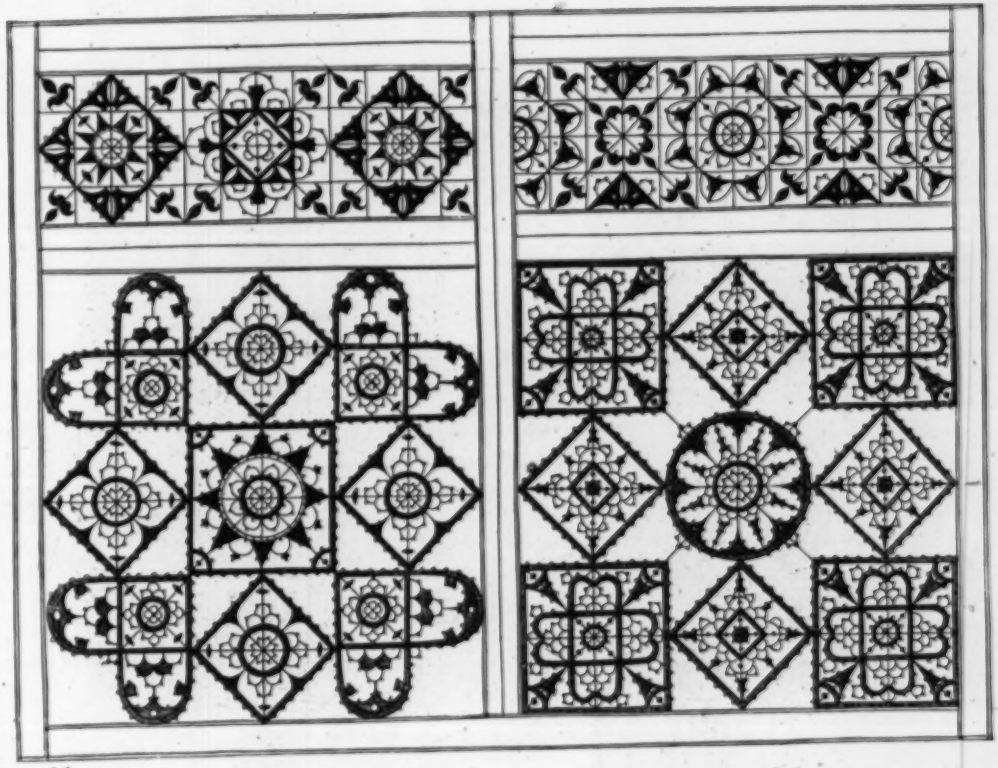

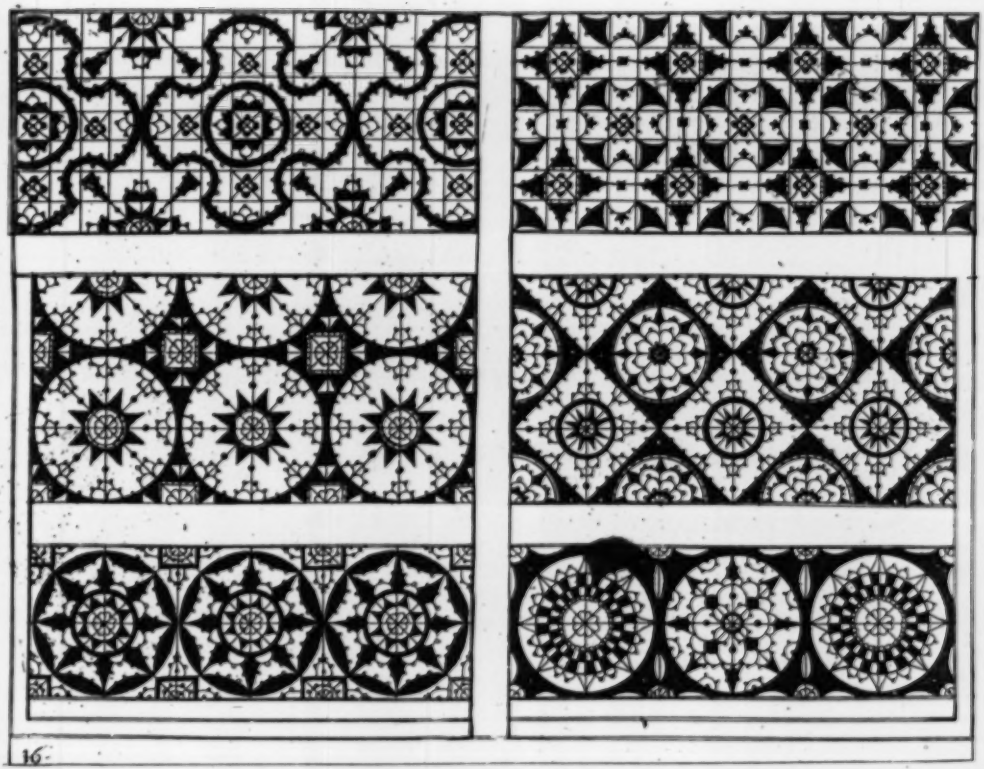

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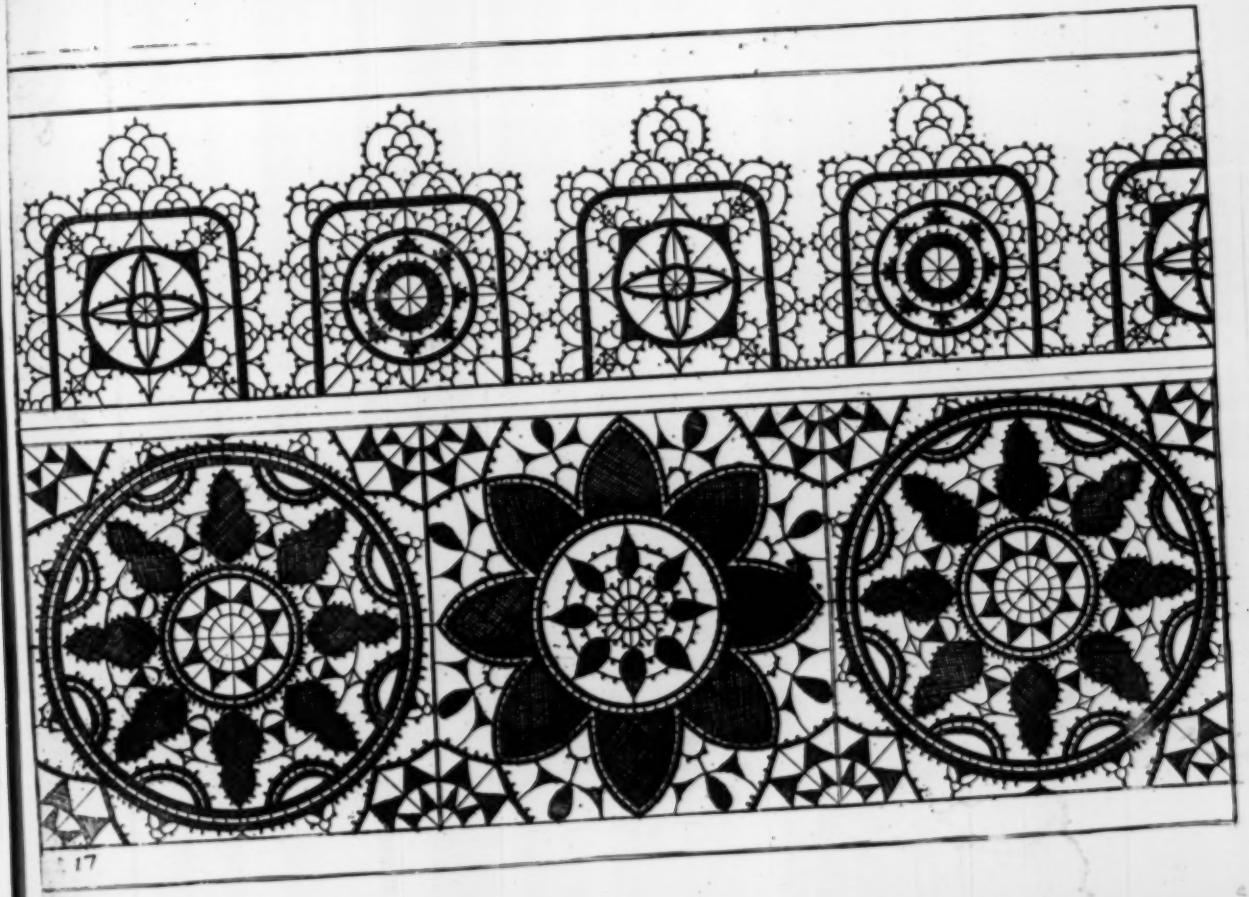

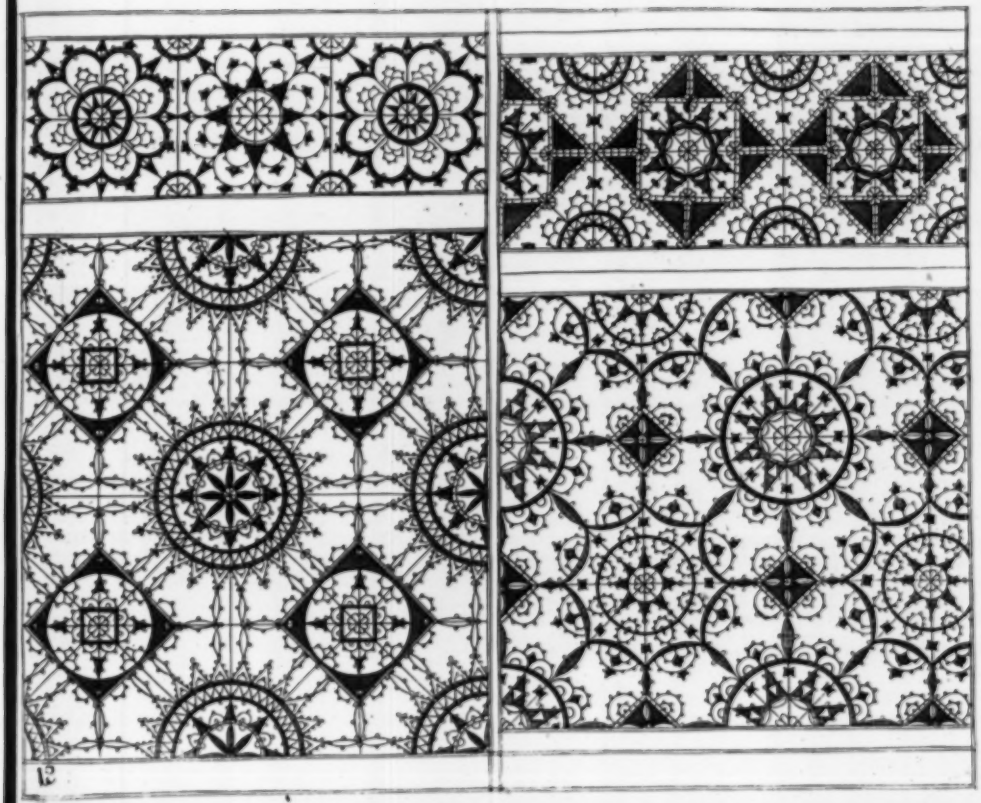

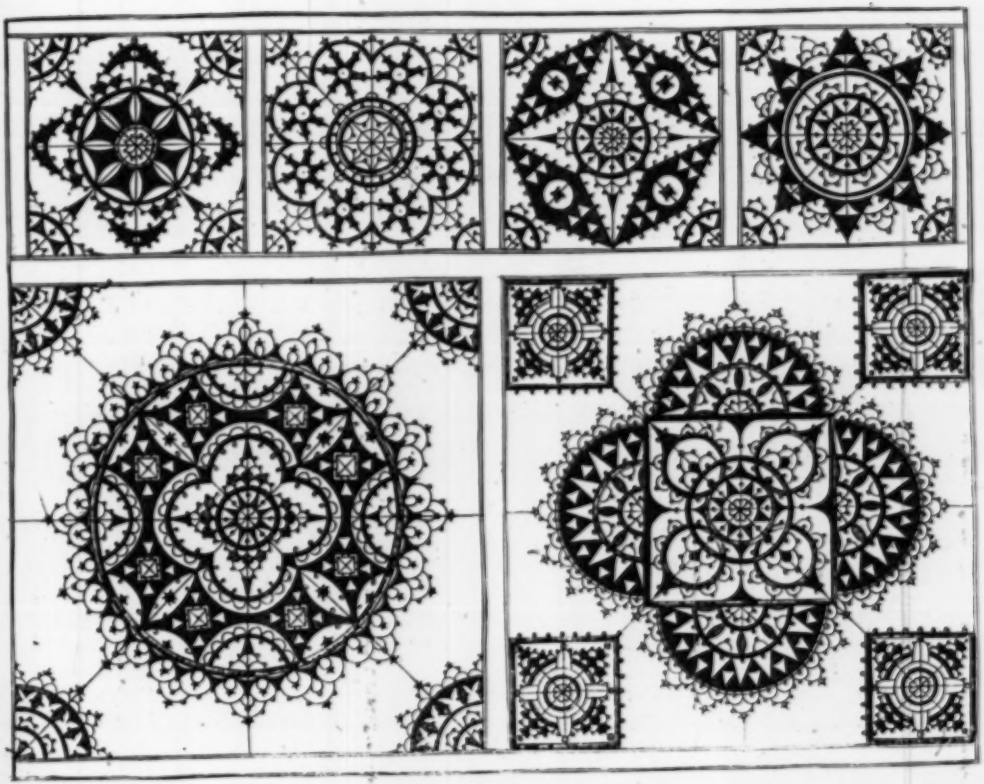

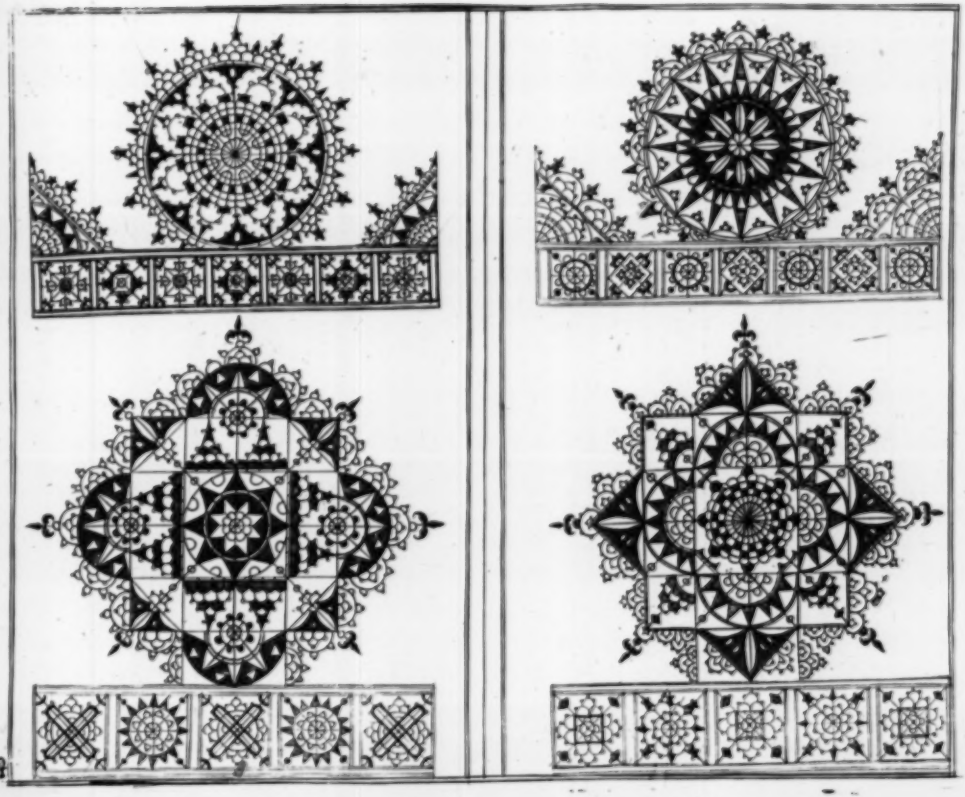

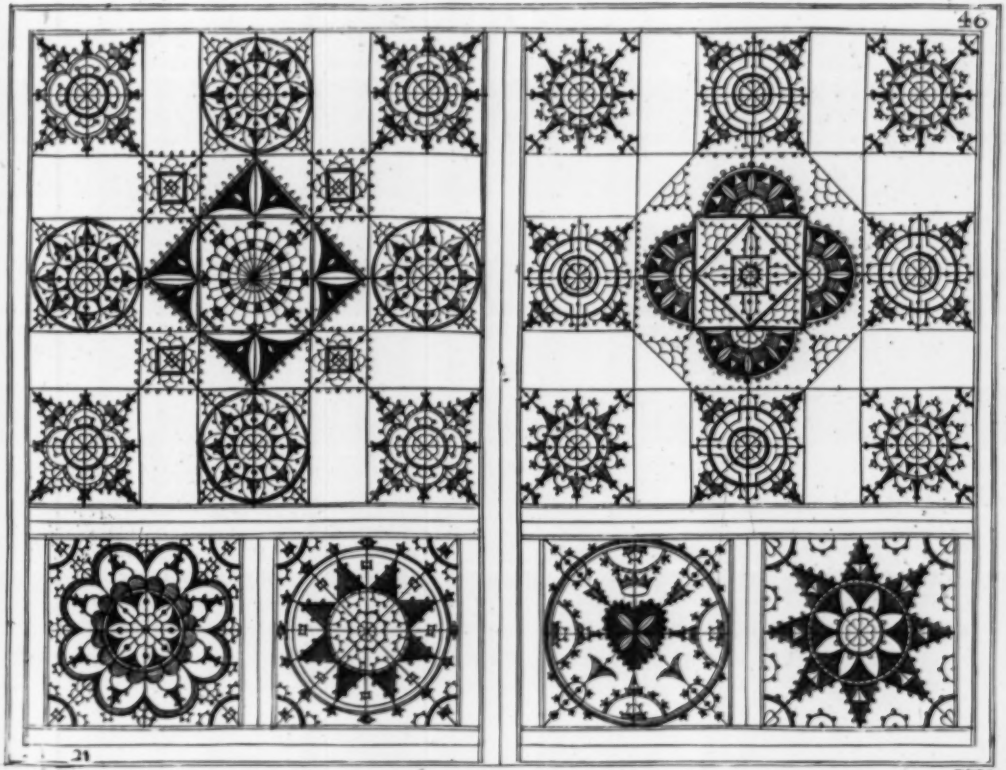

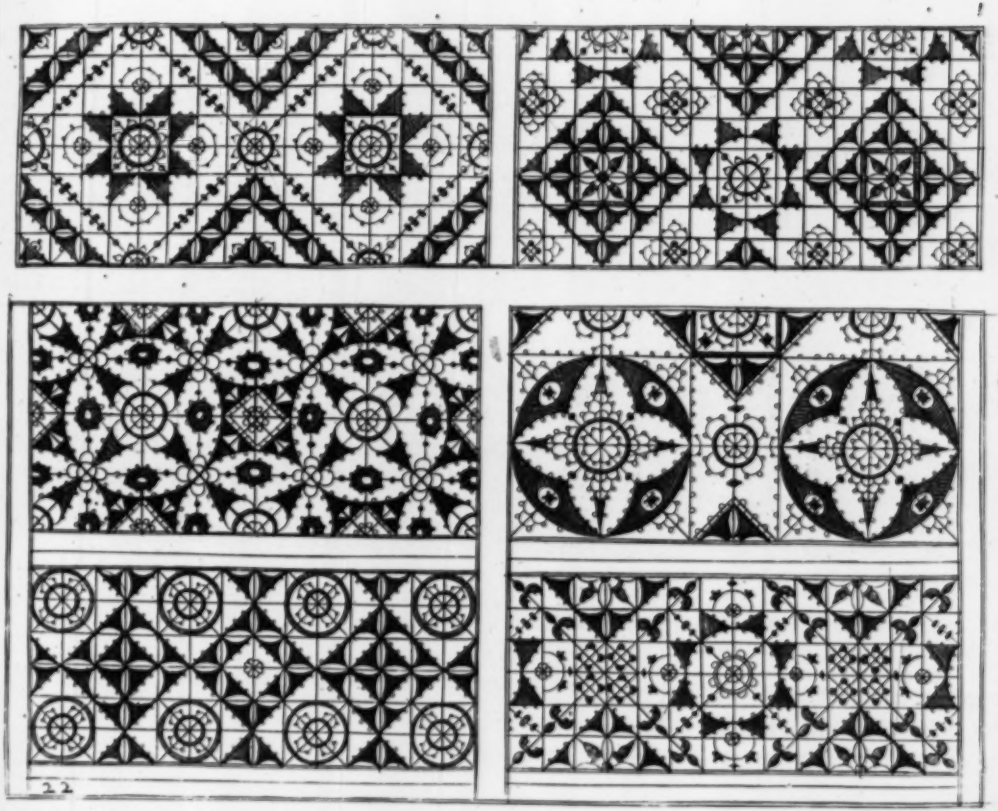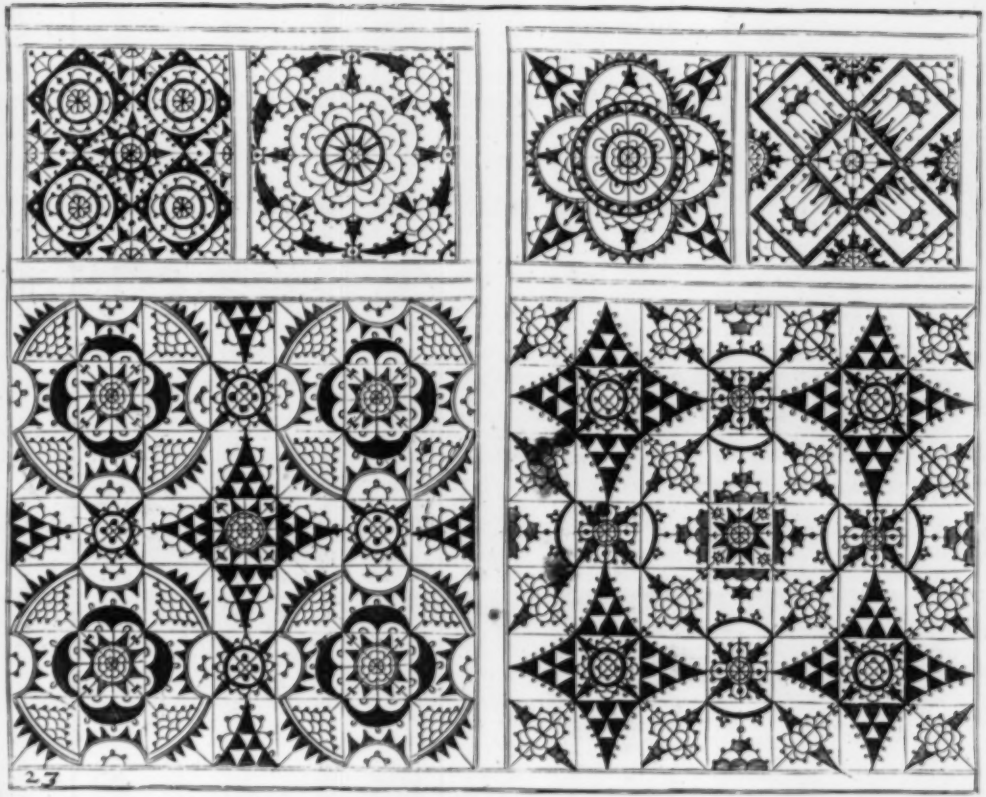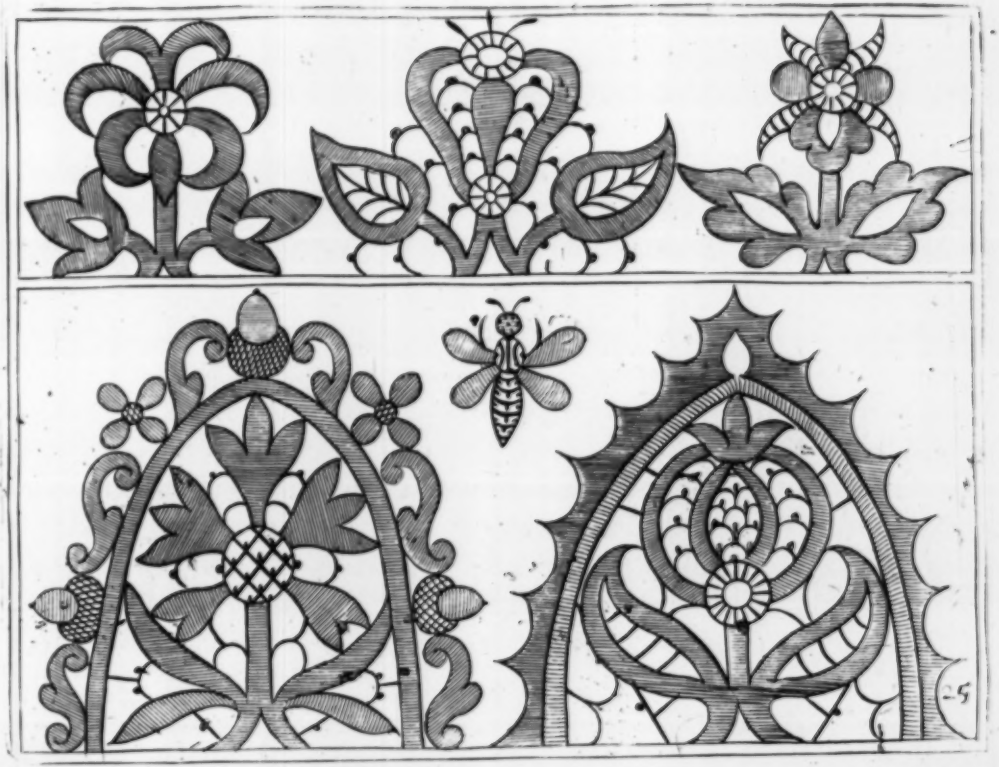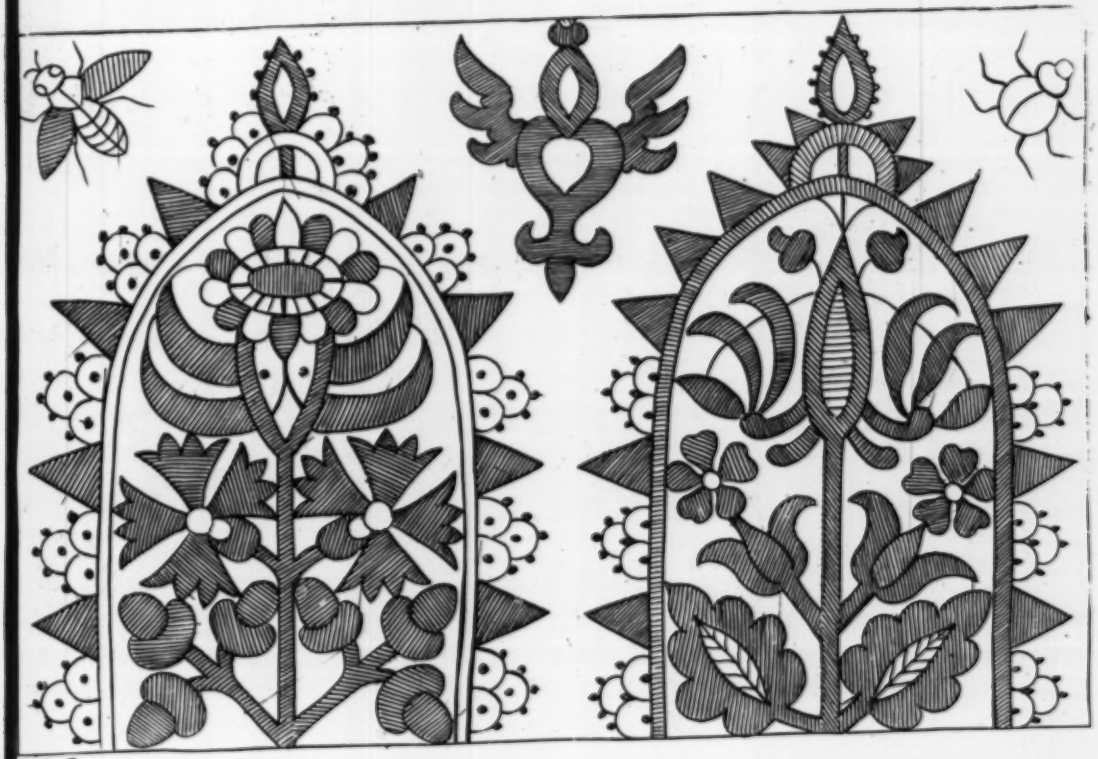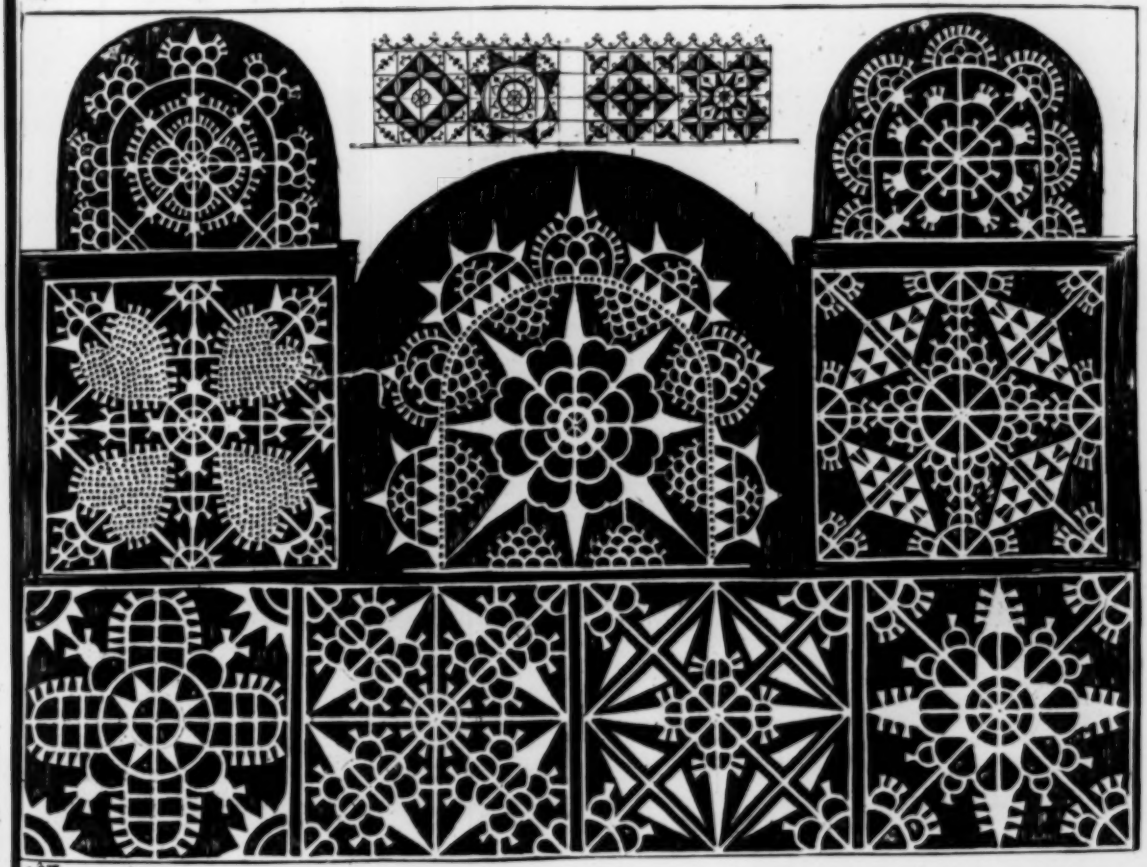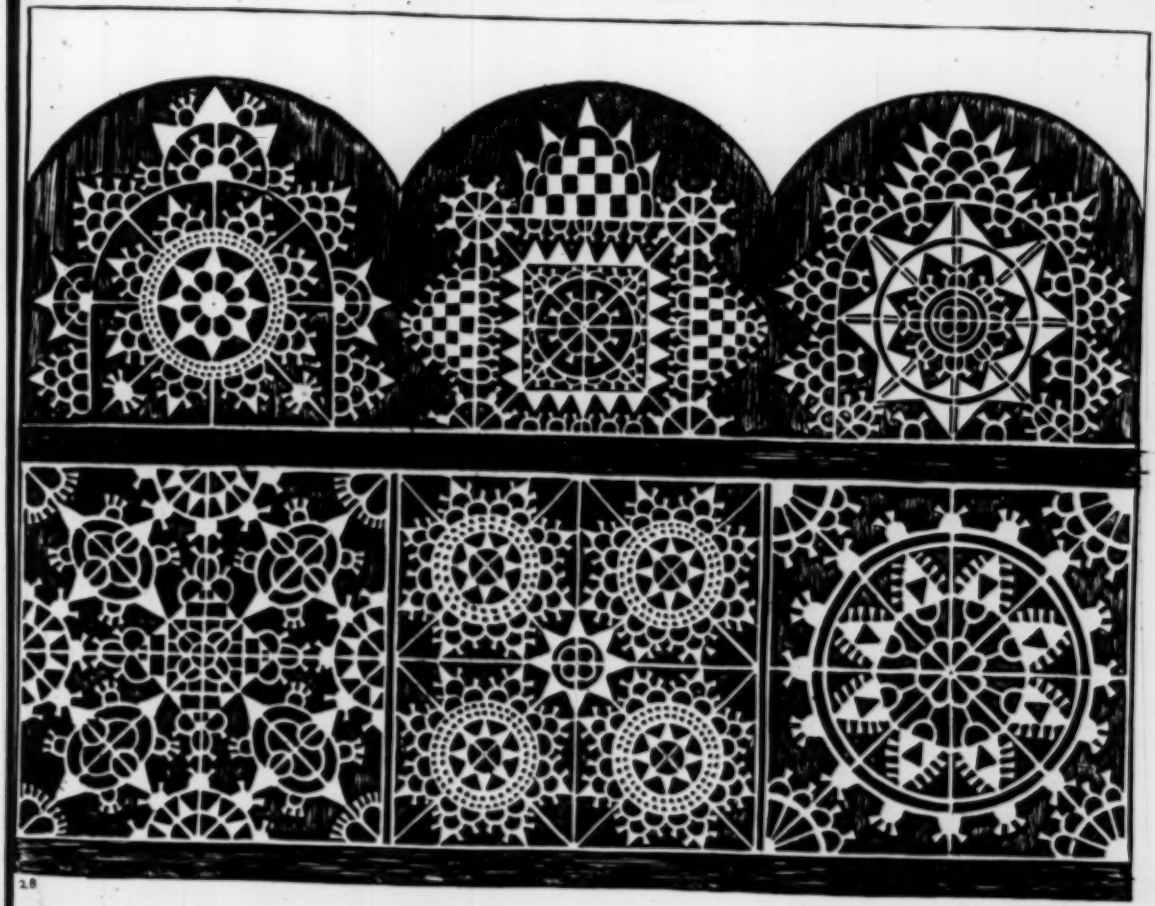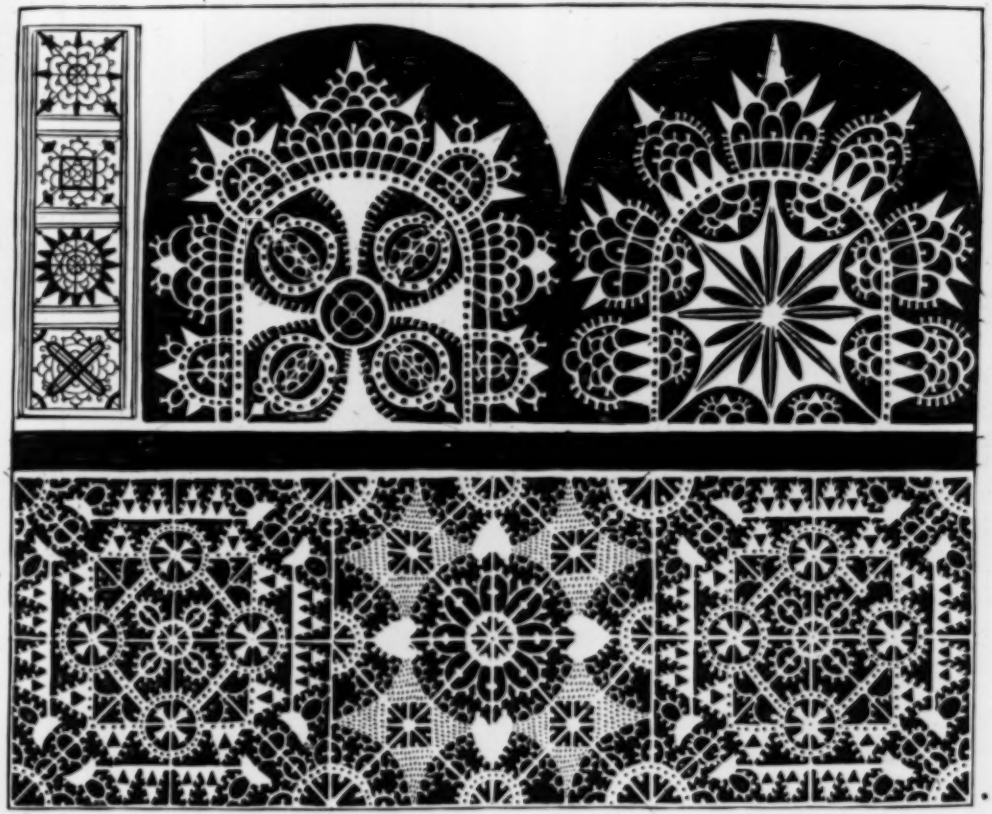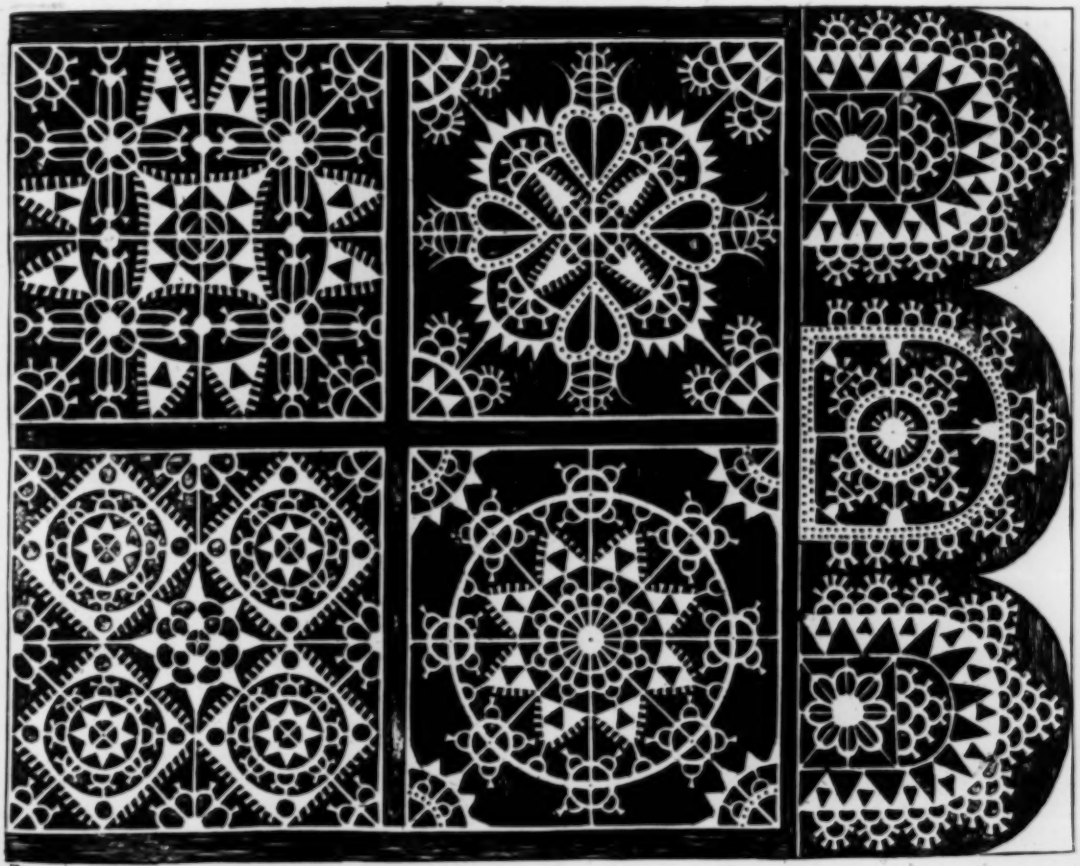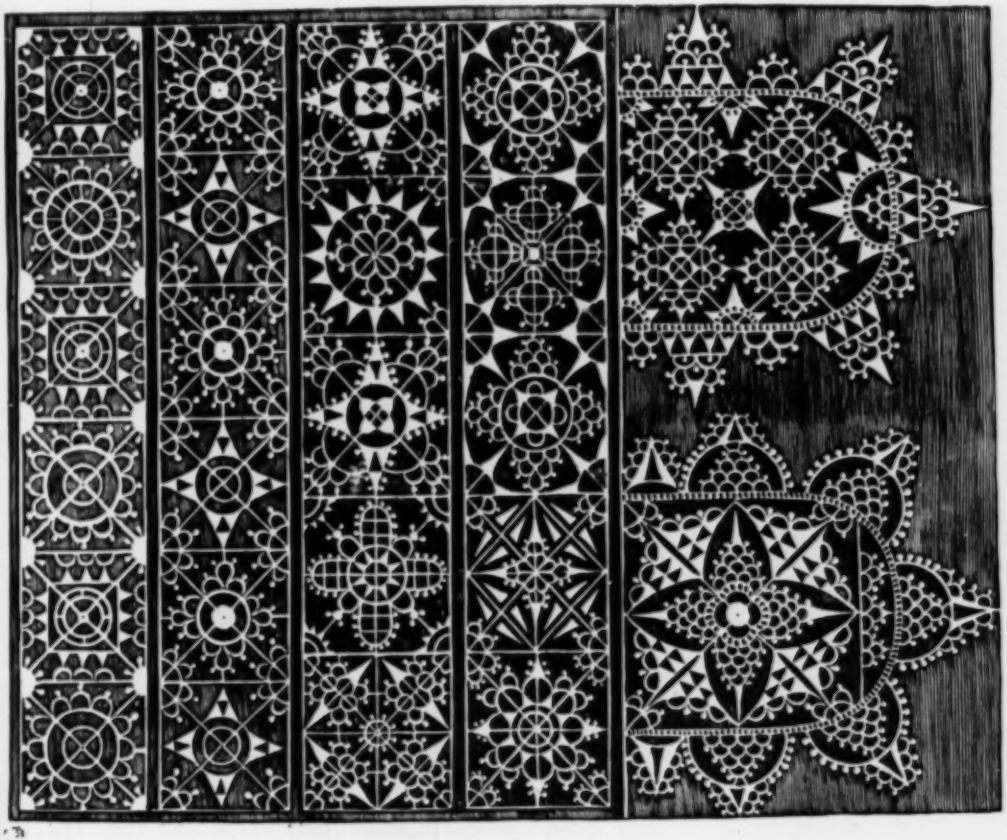
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